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1963/08/31

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEETING AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT
August 31, 1963 -- 11:00 AM - Subject: Vietnam

Present: Vice President, Secretary Rusk, Secretary McNamara, Secretary Dillon, General Carter, General Taylor, General Krulak, Deputy Secretary Gilpatric, Director Murrow, Ambassador Nolting, Assistant Secretary Hilsman, Mr. Helms, Mr. Colby, Mr. Bundy, Mr. Forrestal, Mr. Bromley Smith

There was a briefing meeting with Secretary Rusk chairing it. The group had read the attached telegrams indicating that coup plans had been dropped by the Vietnamese generals.

There was a discussion as to the next move.

The Vice President stated his view that he had not known of U.S. actions taken last Saturday until the following Tuesday meeting. He had never been sympathetic with our proposal to produce a change of government in Vietnam by means of plotting with Vietnamese generals. Now that the generals had failed to organize a coup, he thought that we ought to re-establish ties to the Diem government as quickly as possible and get forward with the war against the Viet Cong.

Bromley Smith

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By SCF NARA, Date 9/90

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